

mer School. The term is now so nearly at an end that it is possible to form some idea of the success or failure of this experiment. The object sought in this class was to so familiarize the students with our more common birds that they would be able to give intelligent guidance to the children under their charge in the school room. This was chiefly accomplished by field study, with, as well as without, the teacher. But the method is of far less interest than the result. Notwithstanding many days of excessive heat, and frequent interruptions by rain (an unusual occurrence in summer here), some eighty species of birds have been recorded, fully fifty of them many times, and upwards of forty have sung for us repeatedly, while the nesting of fully twenty-five has been studied satisfactorily. Excellent opportunities have been afforded for the study of young plumages and the care of the young, while much has been learned of the molt and of the roosting habits.

The insects and heat, while causing more or less inconvenience, have not proven serious obstacles. The practice of long walks and long hours of field work has resulted not only in the ability to do more of it but to enjoy it so that it has become a pleasure, as the many expressed regrets that the term is so nearly closed indicate. The term's work has impressed upon me the fact that summer bird-study is both possible and profitable, while at no other time can the songs be studied so well, for then they are heard singly and the singers can be approached more readily. There is almost no medley of bird music from which the different songs must be separated out.

The keen and sustained interest exhibited by this class of both teachers and students gives me great hope for the future of the birds. In the near future there will be greater strides made in the dissemination of "Acquaintance with the birds" among school-children, a right acquaintance, than the whole past has seen. Let the good work go on.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

JULY NESTING.

As we come to count up when the month is only a little more than half over, it seems remarkable the number of birds we have found nesting here near Oberlin, in July. Of course we expect to run across some belated nesters every season, but as Mr. Jones and I compare notes we find that we have recorded eggs belonging to fourteen species of birds in only three days afield this month—and that too, without paying any particular attention to nests. Is the nesting season later than usual this

year? or have we been blinded to the fact that birds nest regularly in July at this latitude? That the former supposition must have at least some weight my note-book will show. Where I have four species nesting for April and ten for May (all accidentally or at least *incidentally* discovered), I have also ten for June, and here, with Mr. Jones, fourteen for July. This count includes, of course, only those actually examined. No account is made of nests containing young.

The following is the record of the three July days:

July 4.

CLIFF SWALLOW.—A colony of twenty pairs contained two or three sitting birds.

CEDAR WAXWINGS.—Two nests were found in an orchard, one containing four eggs, and the other containing one egg and three young just hatched. Beside these were found three nests as yet unoccupied.

ROBIN.—One nest with four eggs examined. Other sitting birds seen but not disturbed.

CHIPPING SPARROW.—Four eggs, apparently fresh.

PHOEBE.—Four eggs in a nest placed on a shale cliff.

A WARBLING VIREO'S nest not quite completed contained a single Cowbird's egg with a sizable hole in it, probably made by the aggrieved party. As the contents of the egg were unaltered, the evidence is strongly in favor of the July nesting of the Vireo—but we don't count her.

July 5.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—Four eggs.

VESPER SPARROW.—Three eggs.

FIELD SPARROW.—The nest contained three eggs of the Sparrow and one of the Cowbird.

July 12.

VESPER SPARROW.—Three eggs.

SONG SPARROW.—Three eggs of the Sparrow and one of the Cowbird.

CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Three eggs.

WOOD PEWEE.—Two eggs.

CARDINAL. Two Eggs.

WOOD THRUSH.—Two eggs.

These last three were probably second attempts of birds whose nests had been disturbed.

W. L. DAWSON, *Oberlin, Ohio.*